

Message Text

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TO USINT ALGIERS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 097278

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION STATE INFO BONN, LONDON, PARIS, MOSCOW,
TEL AVIV, EHLSINKI, VIENNA, TUNIS, BEIRUT, ANKARA, RABAT,
NATO AND EC BRUSSELS FROM ROME MAY 18, REPEATED TO YOU:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 4058

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR XF

SUBJECT: CSCE; MEDITERRANEAN/ MIDEAST QUESTION

DEPT PASS USINT ALGIERS

FOR USDEL MPT HELSINKI

REF: BONN 07022

1. FONOFF CSCE OFFICE CONFIRMED REPORT REFTEL THAT ITALIAN
POLITICAL DIR/ GEN DUCCI SUGGESTED AT MAY 14 EC POLITICAL
COMMITTEE MEETING THAT ALGERIA AND TUNISIA BE AFFORDED RIGHT
TO SPEAK AT CSCE. FONOFF OFFICIAL ADDED THAT DUCCI SUGGESTION
WAS NOTHING MORE THAN THAT FOR THE MOMENT AND WOULD PRESUMABLY
BE DISCUSSED AGAIN AT THE NEXT PC MEETING ON MAY 24

2. OFFICIAL PROVIDED ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON DUCCI SUGGESTION
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WHICH SHE SAID WAS ADVANCED AS A LESS RISKY ALTERNATIVE TO TURKISH PROPOSAL FOR ARAB OBSERVER STATUS ON SELECTED CSCE COMMISSIONS IN PHASE II. ACCORDING SOURCE, ITALIAN IDEA IS TO PERMIT TUNISIAN AND ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTERS TO MAKE STATEMENTS DURING CSCE PHASE I. THERE WOULD BE NO REPEAT NO RIGHT OF REPLY TO ARAB STATEMENTS AND THUS, IN ITALIAN VIEW NO REPEAT NO PRACTICAL CONSEQUENCES.

3. FOR ITALIANS, SUGGESTION HAS MERIT OF PROVIDING MAGHREB COUNTRIES WITH HIGH LEVEL PLATFORM TO ESTABLISH LOOSE CONNECTION BETWEEN CSCE AND MEDITERRANEAN WHILE AT SAME TIME PRECLUDING ARAB PRESENCE DURING WORK PHASE. IN ADDITION, ITALIANS SEE THEIR IDEA AS MAKING USEFUL POLITICAL GESTURE TOWARD ARABS WHICH COULD HAVE HELPFUL IMPACT ON PETROLEUM AND OTHER QUESTIONS. WHEN EMBOFF EXPRESSED SCEPTICISM REGARDING ITALIAN IDEA, PARTICULARLY AS IT SEEMED SURELY DESTINED TO PROVOKE ISRAELI REQUEST FOR EQUAL TIME, FONOFF OFFICIAL REPLIED THAT ITALIANS ARE REASONABLY ASSURED, BASED ON RECENT CONVERSATIONS WHICH DUCCI HAD IN TUNIS, THAT ARABS WOULD MAKE RELATIVELY INNOCUOUS PRESENTATIONS AND WOULD TAKE CARE NOT TO REPEAT NOT TO INTRODUCE ARAB- ISRAELI ISSUE.

4. IN CONCLUSION, FONOFF OFFICIAL NOTED THAT WHILE FONOFF THOUGHT THAT THEIR SUGGESTION IS A GOOD ONE, THEY ARE ALSO OPEN TO OTHER SUGGESTIONS.

5. COMMENT: IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT DUCCI HAS FLOATED HIS SUGGESTION WITH TUNISIANS AND POSSIBLY OTHER ARABS. IF, AS WE WOULD EXPECT FROM GUIDANCE RECEIVED TO DATE, DEPARTMENT OPPOSES ITALIAN SUGGESTION, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS IN TIME TO THROW COLD WATER ON IT BEFORE NEXT EC POLITICAL COMMITTEE AND WHILE ITALIANS ARE STILL APPARENTLY OPEN TO OTHER IDEAS ON THE SUBJECT.
VOLPE

UNQUOTE RUSH

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